



The President's Daily Brief

24 September 1973

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 September 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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(Page 1)

25X1

The fedayeen fear they are being abandoned by Egypt and Syria, now that these states have reached a rapprochement with Jordan. (Page 2)

We review the military situation in Cambodia on Page 3.

West Germany's Foreign Minister has accepted Gromyko's invitation to visit Moscow for talks on Berlin. (Page 4)

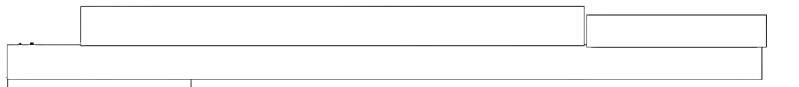
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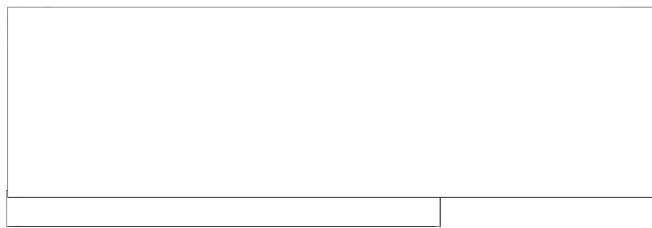
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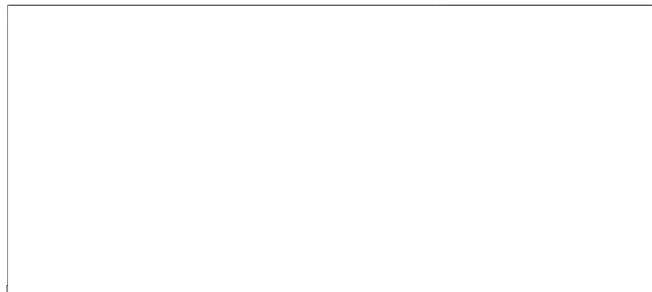
CHINA



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MIDDLE EAST

Egypt's and Syria's rapprochement with Jordan have led the fedayeen to conclude that their interests are being abandoned by those governments and that Syria is moving to bring the fedayeen under its control.

The failure of Presidents Sadat and Asad to get King Husayn to allow the fedayeen to return to Jordan brought vehement protests from the fedayeen, grouped under Yasir Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). As a result, Egypt is now cool to the PLO and Syria has imposed sanctions on fedayeen in its territory who do not belong to the Syrian-sponsored fedayeen group, called Saiaa.

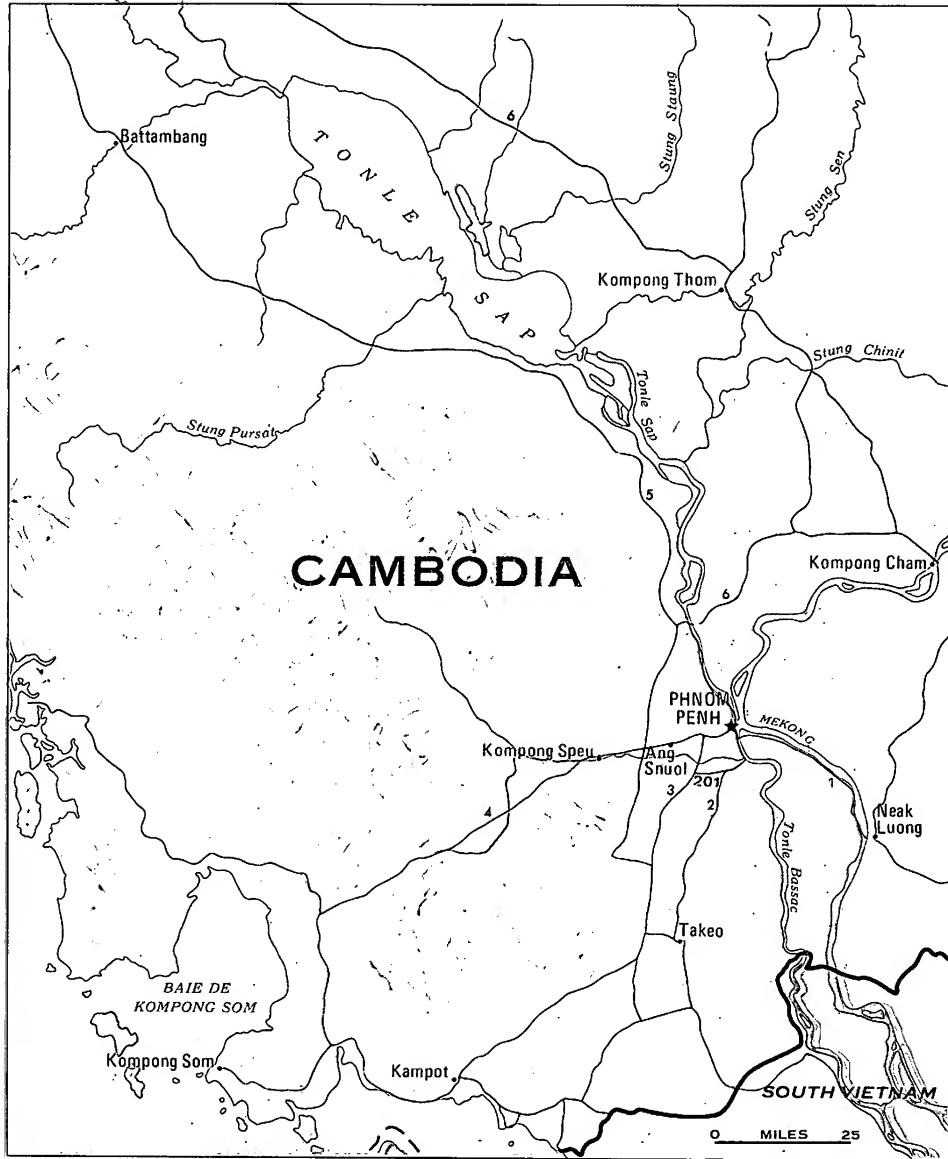
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PLO leaders on Saturday completed a two-day meeting to assess their situation and to try to avert further splits within the movement.

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Such a papering-over of differences leaves the situation much as before the leaders' meeting, with the PLO divided, and enmity between the two largest fedayeen groups, Fatah and Saiaa, undiminished. The leaders' demand that the fedayeen be allowed to re-enter Jordan suggests that Husayn's kingdom will once again become a target of guerrilla attacks.

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CAMBODIA

Insurgent forces have made no major ground attacks on Kompong Cham in over two weeks, although they are still shelling the city daily. They have offered only moderate resistance to government troops who have strengthened defensive positions west and north of the city. Convoys on the Mekong continue to deliver supplies, and conditions in the city are starting to return to normal.

Antigovernment units withdrew from Route 1 southeast of Phnom Penh last week and have not returned to the attack. A recent intercepted message shows they have run low on ammunition in this sector. Meanwhile, flooding has apparently forced insurgents to abandon positions near Ang Snuol on Route 4, and military convoys have begun moving between the capital and the port of Kompong Som for the first time in over three weeks.

The Cambodian Army is planning to bring in fresh troops and armor in an attempt to reopen Route 5 where it is cut about 30 miles north of Phnom Penh. Six insurgent battalions are deployed along this highway [redacted]

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NOTE

USSR - West Germany: West German Foreign Minister Scheel has accepted Gromyko's invitation to visit the USSR between October 30 and November 5. Prior to the visit, middle-level officials from both countries will meet to review the questions concerning Berlin that are disturbing bilateral relations and affecting Bonn's ties to Eastern Europe.

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